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Always in Boots' line dance instructor Karley Stevenson walks people through different moves during Pinestone's Country Night. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*

Wake up: the impact of wake boats on local lakes

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"Boat wakes have changed, and our lakes have noticed," said Paul MacInnes, chair of the Haliburton Property Owners Association (CHA). "We have to discuss the risk that these monster trucks of the lakes pose to our lakes."

MacInnes was speaking to a group of avid lake-lovers during the annual CHA meeting on May 3. During the half-day event, talks around proper septic care, loon preservation, and algae blooms were presented.

But nothing hit home harder than the discussion around boat wakes. According to the presentation, boat wakes make up to 70 to 90 per cent of energy on local lakes. Those are waves, created artificially by power boats in an effort to allow lake surfers to ride in the wake.

The boats themselves are deep v-shaped vessels, weighing between 3000 to 5000 pounds. They are built with

see SURVEY page 12

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Service review defines upper, lower tier responsibilities

JAMES MATTHEWS

Journalist

There was never a proper, clearly articulated service agreement between Haliburton County and its lower tier townships.

And that's something that has proven to be a factor in the county's current multi-phase service delivery review.

"When it first went through, that was fine," said Gary Dyke, the county's CAO. "But as you go through time, people change and memories fade with respect to the intent behind certain things that were being put in place, there starts to get some ambiguity and misremembering, understanding as to who does what."

And that's fair, he said.

The service delivery review will identify roles and responsibilities. Those are areas of concern important to identify.

"They're not significant concerns, but just enough that there's some conflict or friction between the county and the local municipalities," he said.

Ultimately, detailed service agreements will come from the review for each of the services delivered by the upper tier. That way municipalities and the county will know their respective roles and that will help in better conflict resolution.

The first phase happened in 2022 with a look at 22 services provided by the county and its four lower tier municipalities. The review suggested $900,000 in direct and $210,000 in productivity gains.

So that's something.

In that evaluation, 12 service areas were identified as high priority. Six of them are priority service areas modification initiatives implemented between 2022 and 2023.

They are solid waste management, fire services, economic development, bylaw enforcement, procurement, and information technology and digital strategy.

A review of the opening phase indicated a need for the development of service delivery agreements to clarify roles and responsibilities in service delivery for three areas. They are IT and digital strategy, bylaw enforcement, and procurement.

"Which is a lot," Dyke said.

Okay, but that was the first phase.

A Phase 2 detailed review and analysis program will be developed between the county and its lower tier municipalities. It will be helmed by the respective CAOs with final reports on options to be provided to county council in September.

The lower tier municipalities will get those reports afterwards.

The second phase identified for further review engineering, communications, human resources, and planning with respect to the Consolidated County Official Plan.

"Like any new program put into place, there are definitely areas we can improve upon or make some changes that will make it even better," Dyke said.

The review is not a static entity. Rather, it's a piece of an ongoing effort toward improvement.

The key facets of the second phase are annual evaluation and reporting of service delivery and a review of all vacant positions in the organization.

"These things ultimately impact people," Dyke said. "Where they work, how they work, what their roles and responsibilities are, if you haven't properly planned out how that impact is at the personal level, you'll have some implementation issues going forward and it'll affect the quality of the program."

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said it is important that all parties have an equal buy-in of services.

"That it not be looked upon as a senior and junior," he said. "I know we call it upper tier and lower tier. But if there's a senior and junior aspect to it, it's going to make it more difficult to implement. We have to find a way that the five groups are working together and working together in some egalitarian manner."

"That's the reason why I think the service level agreements, they are the key element going forward," Dyke said. "It's the pre-nup, if you will. Let's make an effort, understand everything while we still like each other and go forward. If you have a question, let's build it into the document."

HCSA AGM recaps 2025 winter season

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Sherri Patterson, centre, was recognized as the HCSA Volunteer of the Year during the club's AGM on May 24. The club celebrated Sherri, and thanked her for her countless hours of dedication and commitment to the organization. /Submitted by HCSA

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association's (HCSA) 53rd annual Area General Meeting was held on Saturday, May 24 at the Haliburton Legion.

"The end of our season is just the start of our next," said Neil Vanderstoop, HCSA president.

The organization says that they are in good shape looking ahead to their 2026 winter season. Grooming over 1,700 hours across 213 shifts, the HCSA donated $2,000 to the Haliburton Emergency Rural Safespace, run by the YWCA. It provides a space for women in troubled relationships to remove themselves from dangerous situations and receive support.

Despite the setbacks including winter storms, weather conditions, manpower limitations, and minor mechanical issues, the HCSA says that they groomed for double the number of hours than last year, and are planning on having four rigs running next season.

At the AGM, the HCSA team thanked their 178 landowners that donated access to their land, letting snowmobiles adventure over the trails all winter. Notably, a majority of the landowners do not snowmobile themselves.

The HCSA says that their biggest fundraising effort is through their advertisers in their HCSA Trail Guide.

Around 6,000 copies of the HCSA Trail Guide were reprinted for the HCSA's 2025 season. The HCSA is proud to support Parker Pad and Printing, a 100 per cent local Haliburton business. In addition to having advertisers listed in the book, the HCSA posted a list of sponsors online at hcsa.ca/business-directory-2025. Businesses that are interested in advertising in their 2026 Trail Guide are asked to email the association at info@hcsa.

Away from the trails, the HCSA had a crew of dedicated volunteers fixing what the HCSA calls their "administrative nightmare." Their issues included ensuring all landowners sign an updated Land Use Permission Memo of Understanding to allow insurance coverage. This step was crucial for the trails to open and required many late nights. Their other main task was updating their bylaws to comply with the recently updated Provincial Not For Profit Corporations Act.

"Our bylaws are even better now," said Vanderstoop. He also notes that some neighbouring snowmobile associations plan on using the HCSA's bylaw documentation to assist with establishing their own bylaws.

The changes were guided by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs, enforcing their memoriam of understandings (MOUs), requiring all permissions to be filled by property owners. This change in administration became quite the headache for snowmobiling clubs across Ontario.

"It was a big, team effort," said Vanderstoop. "We are the biggest club and need the most signatures."

With the freshly signed MOUs, the HCSA has included rolling closing dates. When the MOUs are close to expiring, the HCSA will only have to get signatures from a select number of landowners at a time. Some of the agreements that Vanderstroop had to track down in their files dated back to the 1970s.

This winter season, a washout along TOP B112 wiped out the new bridge on Sedgewick Road and part of the TOP B103/The Rail Trail. A new culvert has been installed there as well. New culverts were also placed around the Horseshoe Lake Road area and the Voicey Road area. Two bridges received new decks, with one at Ritchie Falls and the other along TOP B112 north of Minden.

This year has the highest number of vehicles getting stranded on the trails. Regular vehicles like cars and trucks think that the cleared trails are roads and become trapped.

"It was the worst year for vehicles on the trails," said Vanderstoop. "That's a great testament to our grooming, but come on."

One vehicle was stranded on a snowmobile trail for four days before they decided to phone the emergency rescue line.

"It was a weird year, but it was fun," said Vanderstroop with a laugh.

This spring and summer, the HCSA plans to re-top the bridge along B103 with new wood and install a few small culverts. For the most part, they plan on taking it easy.

The HCSA would like to thank their team of volunteers for their support, action towards maintaining the trails and allowing this past winter to be such a success. They are also currently looking for additional interested volunteers. For those interested, please apply on their website at hcsa.ca/volunteer.

The HCSA will be hosting their Open House on June 14 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., located at 171 Mallard Road. Their next general meeting will be held on June 18 at the same location at 6:30 p.m.

"It was a great winter," said Vanderstoop. "Our volunteers did an amazing job. I am very proud of our group this year."

Healthy Democracy Project kicks off in Highlands

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

The wheels are in motion to get interested individuals running for local council.

At an open house held at the Minden Community Centre on May 28, over 100 eager citizens came out to listen to a presentation from two representatives from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). Every Minden Hills councillor was present, with absence noted from neighbouring municipalities representation.

The presentation was put on by a number of interested organizations, eager to see a shift and change in municipal landscapes. "It feels like this came together with a bunch of people just going down the river and connecting," said Pam Sayne, councillor of Minden Hills, who opened the evening. "This is building, folks, and it just keeps building."

With only a short 11 months until the next municipal election, Telling Our Stories Speakers Series, a part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, is spearheading the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project.

In an effort to get the ball rolling, they have joined forces with Aging Together as Community, and managed to secure AMO to chat with the community. "It's an anomaly for us to be here today," said Petra Wolfbeiss, the Director of the AMO Membership Centre. "We don't generally meet with the voting public. We usually meet with our members."

And the municipally-driven organization has a lot of members. 444 to be exact: every municipality across the province.

Wolfbeiss called municipal politics "the least understood, but impacts people the most."

So to a crowd of people, Wolfbeiss asked, why are you here today?

"We're an old community and we need younger people," said one attendee. "I'm afraid that we're losing

Petra Wolfbeiss, Pam Sayne, and Henry Khamonde spoke to an engaged crowd on May 28 in an effort to launch Haliburton County's own Healthy Democracy Project. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

democracy," said another. "I'm wondering why people aren't more concerned," chimed one. "I feel disconnected from the people running in my council," worried another.

One major topic that came up repeatedly was polarization, and the dichotomizing nature of the current political landscape. "The variation in ideas is an important element of competency," said Wolfbeiss, noting that healthy debate is vital for growth, but the lengths at which politicians are treated these days does not equate to the reward at the end. "The reality is that it's a full time job, and it's non-stop," said Wolfbeiss, comparing the risk versus reward component of municipal governance.

AMO noted the steadily declining candidate registration, with an ongoing issue in increases in acclamations. In 2022 alone, there were 560 acclamations across the province. Higher than ever before. "Any acclamations are problematic," said Wolfbeiss, despite some attendees suggesting that the occasional acclamation may be acceptable, referencing that it sometimes takes longer than the standard four-year term to accomplish any projects.

"Who wants to be publicly disrespected and humiliated?" asked Wolfbeiss, noting that some see running for council as "reputational suicide."

So it's time to put a new spin on things. During the 2021 - 2022 municipal campaigns, AMO launched their *We All Win* campaign, trying to focus on the positive stories of municipally elected staff, and the significant impact they can make on their communities.

But how do we bring some fresh blood into the equation? Henry Khamonde, an intern with AMO, spoke to his in-depth involvement with recruiting young professionals to the industry. "Youth don't feel as though their voice is heard in local government," he said. "They haven't established that connection with local government."

One topic that was brought up, is that youth are often fixated on instant gratification. "But change takes time," said Khamonde.

Next steps for the organization are taking shape from Haliburton's own Healthy Democracy Project. The grassroots organization will host four upcoming sessions, starting in the fall. First will be engage, followed by inspire, educate, and campaign. The sessions are designed to be free and non-partisan workshops, with speakers slated for each time slot. All are welcome to join, whether you are interested in running for office, or just eager to make a positive change in the community.

The papers will provide updates on the development of the Healthy Democracy Project as it continues to evolve and grow.

Soccer night in Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's become a sure sign of summer. The minivans crowding the corners of the high school field. Squeals of delight and sticky hands passing out watermelon slices.

In fact, it's become so popular that the regular Thursday night sessions have branched out. "This is our fourth year," said Kathy Judson, the founder of Haliburton Grassroots Athletics, "and we have expanded so much, we needed to add another night."

Moving forward, the youth boys are set to play on Tuesday evenings, and the girls and co-ed teams will take the field on Thursdays. With the age groups ranging from four to 13 years old, the field is set to be full each night. "For some people, this is their only opportunity to play all year," said Judson.

She noted that there are 250 kids in total registered, and the kids are evenly split between boys and girls. Judson is particularly excited about the interest from the girl players. "It's important to separate kids at a certain age based on size and confidence," said Judson. "We need to give the girls their own space to play, to let them learn to play in their own ways."

Judson shared that by giving the girls their own space, she believes it has encouraged the girls to return year after year. And now, some of the girls have graduated to playing in the women's league that's set for Sunday nights. "We have some girls playing alongside their moms now," she said. "It's awesome to see."

The Sunday night women's league started on June 1, with the kids leagues starting on Canada Day. Due to the nature of the kids' schedule landing throughout week days, the organization does not have access to the local fields until the high school sports have wrapped up for the year.

Judson shared that recruiting coaches this year has been "absolutely amazing," with most coaches naturally falling into place from interest and past experiences. "I do believe that leading by example is the best way to

With so much interest in soccer, players have been split up between Tuesdays and Thursdays at the field in Haliburton. /FILE

encourage anything," she said, noting that the roster of coaches are dedicated and eager to provide the best experience possible for the kids over the summer.

The papers will be sharing the Stars of the Week from the summer soccer programs, once the season starts in early summer.

HCHBA brings HHSS students on trades trip

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Students from HHSS visited Francis Thomas Contracting's Quarry as part of their trades tour day held on Wednesday, May 28. Students visited the quarry, AH township offices, Kegel Heating and Cooling's showroom, and Ridgewood Ford. /THOMAS SMITH staff

On Wednesday, May 28, nearly 30 students from Haliburton Highlands High School toured the township offices of Algonquin Highlands, Francis Thomas Contracting's Quarry, Kegel Heating and Cooling's showroom, and Ridgewood Ford.

The group consisted primarily of Grade 10 and Grade 11 students, with a few Grade 12 students tagging along for the day. Brett Caputo from the HHSS guidance department and Chris Simpson, HHSS teacher for woodworking, construction, and automotive attended the event alongside the students.

Tradespeople from the Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) were in attendance to chaperone the event, volunteering their time to foster the youth's interest in trades.

For every year that the event has been happening , the HCHBA has been trying to highlight different areas of the county. This year was Algonquin Highlands' turn.

Zach Boice, a representative from Blair Sand and Gravel (and former student of Chris Simpson's), says that he never expected to end up in the trades. He says that if he had the opportunity to explore the trades earlier, his life path would likely have been changed. Representing Blair Sand and Gravel, he thinks that the trades tour days for the students are an excellent way for students to gain an interest in the trades.

At the Algonquin Highlands Township office, students had the chance to hear from Fire Chief Mike French, By-Law Officer Kristen Glass, Public Works Manager Adam Thorn, CAO Angie Bird, Deputy Clerk Sarah Hutson, CBO Greg Moore, Planner Sean O'Callaghan, Treasurer Jean Hughes and Communications Coordinator Chad Ingram. They each spoke about their roles with the township before the students explored Algonquin Highland's Fire Services and their public works department.

At Francis Thomas Contracting's quarry, students were given hard hats and safety vests before riding the bus into the quarry. At the quarry, staff showed the students how granite is mined, crushed, and screened before it is sold. Afterwards, students were allowed to explore a front-end loader and an excavator.

Students then travelled to Kegel's Heating and Cooling's showroom, where they discussed the HVAC industry and learned about their stock of solar solutions, combustible toilets, and heating systems.

They finished the day at Ridgewood Ford, where they explored the showroom and toured their garages.

Aggie Tose, executive officer of the HCHBA says that fewer young people have been interested in a career in the trades after they were removed from the school curriculum. In order for kids to want to gain an interest in any type of trade, they need to be exposed to it at a young age.

Tose says that Kevin Hodgkinson first started the beneficial partnership with the high school. This connection between the HCHBA and the high school has continued, with the county fully supporting the association's efforts. The county footed the bill for the bus that took students around to all the sites.

Tose says that all members have been supportive towards getting kids interested in the trades. Every student that participated in the day was given a t-shirt from the HCHBA to take home and wear proudly.

"We have been seeing more students apply for summer jobs," said Tose. She reports that students were satisfied with the tour on Wednesday, with one student exclaiming that they never thought toilets would be interesting.

"Even if one of them gets interested in it, this is all worth it," said Keith Thomas, owner of Francis Thomas Contracting.

This year, the HCHBA will be partnering with the Rotary Club to offer sessions on tools, materials, and techniques to students at elementary schools in the county. They will also be providing high school students with tool packages to "get everybody on the same playing field," said Tose.

Students will be able to use the tool packages to prepare themselves for the Skills Ontario competition. Students compete in a variety of disciplines, from 2-D animation, to carpentry, to welding. Afterwards, successful participants will move on to the national competition.

Members of the HCHBA will also be visiting classes throughout the year to discuss the trades, put on demonstrations and let students try tools out.

According to Statistics Canada, tradespeople over the age of 65 have increased by 12 per cent, whereas tradespeople between the age of 15 to 24 have decreased by 12 per cent. This declining trajectory will heavily impact the local businesses in Haliburton County.

There still seems to be a stigma around the trades, with nearly 75 per cent of all high school graduates attending post secondary school in other fields.

Haliburton's local shortage of young tradespeople could allow more outside business to expand into the local market. The HCHBA recognizes the importance of youth getting into trades and looks forward to continuing their relationship with the high school and the county, bettering both the county as a whole and the businesses that operate here.

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Cadets welcome community

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The local Cadet Ceremonial Review will be taking place on June 10 at the Haliburton Legion. All are welcome to attend. /FILE

Haliburton's local cadets will be welcoming the public to attend their annual Ceremonial Review on June 10 at the Haliburton Legion. "It is an opportunity to showcase to the community, stakeholders, supporters, donors, parents, other family members and prospective new cadets what cadets is all about and the fun we have working together as a team," said Max Ward, the Commanding Officer of the corps.

The youth-led program runs out of the local legion, and encourages the older youth of the program to mentor and empower younger members. The program is designed for kids ages 12 to 18. Ward noted that once cadets turn 19, they are welcome to volunteer as a Civilian Volunteer, or become a staff member by becoming a Civilian Instructor. Alternatively, they could join the Reserves and become a Cadet Instructor Cadre Officer. "Anyone is welcome to give it a try," said Ward. "We are a friendly group but we do require attention and discipline to function well as a corps." While the cadets meet in Haliburton, Ward encourages anyone from across the county to participate if there is interest.

Through the after-school program, cadets are taught team building, mountain biking, marksmanship, biathlon skills, survival skills, coordinated marching, and music skills. Ward noted that through the sessions, cadets naturally learn discipline, leadership, confidence, and honouring Veterans. "These lessons and skills are very valuable and transferable into the rest of the cadets life, and also well prepares a cadet for adulthood," he said.

The program runs on Tuesday evenings, after school. "Our relaxed after school program allows many youth to remain in Haliburton after school to have fun together, but to also avoid having to get a ride into cadets and only needing the ride home at night, so it is a convenience to the parents that have to arrange all the rides or drive," said Ward.

Ward thanked the Haliburton Legion as their main sponsor, as well as the other organizations and individuals who have supported the program over the years. "We wouldn't be able to do it without the support of so many, of their time and funds," he said.

The Cadet Ceremonial Review is June 10 at 6:45 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion. All are welcome to attend.

City of Kawartha Lakes supports Canada Day festivities

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

The City of Kawartha Lakes has announced that they will be contributing $10,000 towards Canada Day celebration funding across eight of their communities.

Three of the benefitting communities include Kinmount Community Centre Volunteer Management Committee, Kawartha Lakes Fire Station 17 in Norland, and Kawartha Lakes Civitan Club in Coboconk.

"The funding will be applied towards the cost of various aspects of these events including fireworks, entertainment, promotional and logistic event related expenses," writes the City of Kawartha Lakes release.

The funds will be added to the festivities' coffers, having already received $14,000 from the federal government's Celebrate Canada funding program. The program was intended to increase festivities involved with Canada's "ethnic, linguistic, ethnocultural and regional diversity."

The other holidays included with the program were National Indigenous Peoples Day, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, Canadian Multiculturalism Day, and National Acadian Day.

Every year for Canada Day, Kinmount hosts its celebrations at the Kinmount Fairgrounds. There is a RCL Colour Parade and the fireworks show begins after dusk.

Norland's Canada Day celebrations begin with live music hosted at the Kawartha Lakes Fire Station 17 (7675 Highway 35). In the past, drinks and snacks as well as flags, pins, and temporary tattoos were offered to visitors.

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Changes

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

THE OTHER day, I was invited to sit in on a presentation to the Rotary Club by historian Steve Hill on the past stories of newspapers across the county.

And while this topic may not speak to everyone, for me, it was music to my ears.

I have always been a history buff, having worked at both the Haliburton and Minden museums during my upbringing in the area.

But the history of the newspapers is more than just a surface story. It's the spine that connects us to the generations before. The reasons we know anything from the chapters that have closed. The stories of dreams of successes and hardships and doubt that have echoed through the pages to readers for over a century.

Since 1884 we have had a number of variations to our newspapers. It's been *The Minden Echo. The Haliburton Recorder.* Then *The Minden Recorder. The Haliburton County Echo. The Minden Times.* New names, same goal: bringing the news to the people of Haliburton County.

For years now, the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times* have shared staff, shared photos, shared editors. While there have been phases of distinct staff and editors for each paper, for the most part, in recent history, there's been overlap.

And at a certain point, we began to realize that our stories started to overlap as well. While Haliburton County is rich with humble hamlets and cozy communities, the lines around these maps have started to blur. News that happens in Gelert suddenly impacts Cardiff. An event in Haliburton may be of interest to someone in Dorset. A robbery in Tory Hill may have implications to someone in Minden.

Our world is getting smaller. And that's a good thing. We realized that during the ice storm this past spring. When our communications were suddenly cut, and we felt alone. Lost. Trapped.

We depend on the knowledge that there are others alongside our journey. That someone in our world shares our values, shares our dreams, shares our stories.

In an effort to maintain those lines of communication, to blur the lines of us versus them, the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times* have decided that we are going to start focusing on the county as a whole. Blurring lines and sharing stories.

We still believe in the identities of our communities, and the importance of putting their stories first. The *Minden Time*s will continue with a focus on Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands, and the *Haliburton Echo* highlighting Dysart et al and Highlands East.

And while we will keep these lines clean and crisp where we can, there will be many other stories that push and pull at the boundary lines, making them relevant in all corners of the county.

If you are a reader of both papers, you will see some overlap. If you are a loyal reader to just one, the content will suddenly seem a lot more robust, and hopefully well-versed in county-wide communications.

This will also open up the opportunity for our staff to have one extra day - a day that was traditionally used as a second production day for our two papers - to be out in the community. Listening to more stories, becoming more involved, and pushing to learn more, more, more.

I feel honoured to be sitting in the pea-green editor's chair during this time of change. A chair where many have sat before me, editing and shifting to ever-adapt to the pace of our world, holding steady to the spine of our communities: our stories.

This is a time of a time of growth, a time of change, a time of closing one door, and graciously cracking the hinges of a new one; peeking into the light and hoping for the best.

Hearing the *Echoes* of the past, and setting the stage for the *Times* of the future.

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Poke, Peel Pair, Ponder

Fay Martin

I GOT INTO serious trouble the other day for drawing a parallel between Netanyahu and Hitler, both democratically elected leaders who undertook genocide. Or maybe what tipped the apple cart was the comparison of the colonialism of Israel and that which spawned Canada, with the difference that we have admitted that we displaced peoples and subsequently tried to destroy them, and speak about making reparation. In any case, I was declared ineducable and was banned.

And reparation is an interesting word in this context, because if I recall correctly, the land on which Israel was founded was 'given' to the Jewish people by the victors in the Second World War in recompense for their victimization and continuing antisemitism. (There is no such laudable excuse for Canada's colonization – just greed.) But two wrongs do not make a right, and the trouble that was brewing then continues to brew. Not just there: Israel and Gaza just one manifestation of the much more pervasive malfunctioning of humanity.

The religious foundation laid in my childhood and young adulthood wants me to see this as Evil unleashed. But I do not want to join the hordes who are baying for someone's blood. That seems to me to lead to another bogus expectation that two wrongs will somehow make a right. My love of scripturely cadence leads me – quite often, actually – to Khalil Gibran, a Lebanese philosopher who spent his last 20 years in the United States, died 1931 before WWII had even begun. I wanted him to school me (although I'm deemed ineducable by one who found my stance offensive) on the nature of Evil. 'What is evil but good tortured by its own hunger and thirst?' Gibran says. 'When good is hungry it seeks food even in dark caves, and when it thirsts it drinks even of dead waters.'

Ah, it seems Gibran thinks the way to fight evil is to nurture good. That certainly is how we advise parents to raise their children, by reinforcing the positive. That's how we think learning takes root. That's how we believe social progress is made. That's how we hypothesize – although we're very ambivalent and impatient – that people learn the error of their ways, the idea of restorative justice, recovery from addiction and psychological distress, repair of relationships.

It very hard to see how the individual practice of nurturing good can influence what happens in the larger world - the wars, the inhumanity, the destruction. But I come back to the point that Netanyahu and Hitler were democratically elected. I have trouble buying that Netanyahu would behave differently if he hadn't had to make a deal with extreme parties to form government – he could have stepped down and returned the choice to the people; he didn't, he chose to make a deal with the devil, in my books that makes him a bad guy. I also recognize that democracy doesn't always get it right – as someone recently said re the situation to the south of us, 'You may not like the milk, but you bought the cow.'

On the other hand, I consider that Hamas was elected in 2006, that Isreal intervened significantly in that election, and that there has not since been an election. I therefore hold the Gazans differently accountable for the activity of their political leadership, if leadership it is, rather than dictatorial imposition.

At base, I just want the senseless carnage to stop. I resent that I can't say I think Netanyahu is a bad guy without being accused of antisemitism. It's not right that I can't speak up for Palestine without being accused of approving of the Oct. 7th massacre or empowering terrorists, as if Hamas represents Gazan interests, which it clearly does not.

I think nurturing goodness in this situation may mean speaking out, resisting being silenced. I do not have a thorough understanding of the historical and current complexity of the situation, but that doesn't mean I can't recognize that something terribly wrong is happening and say STOP. I have no way of knowing if and how that may influence anything, but it is what I can do.

And perhaps by so doing encouraging others to do likewise, in whatever direction their hearts and minds dictate, as opportunity offers. Talking seriously about serious matters, seeking to expand understanding, seeking goodness whenever we can. Let me close with Gibran again: 'In your longing for your giant self lies your goodness: and that longing is in all of you.' To the search for your giant self.

points of view

Weird is relative

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

LAST SUNDAY afternoon I was in a canoe fishing on a small lake when we drifted by two ducks sitting on a log. They were preening themselves and looking around and did not seem too threatened by us – I suppose because they had watched us fish.

At that moment, and not for the first time, I thought that a duck is the strangest creature that has ever existed.

Look, I know this might seem a little biased. After all, I have been a duck hunter for almost 50 years, which means I am resentful because I could have been rich but instead chose to spend a lot of money bothering ducks.

Believe it or not, I love ducks – especially wood ducks on a barbecue or roasted mallards stuffed with apple slices on a bed of wild rice.

But that's neither here nor there. Objectively speaking, there is no denying it. Ducks are weird.

Let's start with their looks. Big broad bill. Webbed feet. Eyes on the sides of their heads. Ears totally covered in feathers.

Still not convinced?

Let's discuss their life choices. They choose to reside in swamps or city parks, two of the least desirable places on earth to call home. Worse still, when they are in parks, they will gladly take food from strangers. Oh, and let's not forget their walk. It's so strange that we have named our silliest exercise after it.

They walk like an old, pot-bellied man who is wearing overly tight suspenders – which is not so bad, until you remember they have the option of flying, without having to land at major airports or go through customs. Worse still, they exert tons of energy and risk being shot by hunters just to fly south every winter, when all they really need to do is land on the roof of a snowbird's car and enjoy the ride there and back.

Not weird enough for you?

OK, they can easily be fooled by a spread of plastic duck mannequins and be called in by hunters blowing on glorified kazoos.

Then there is that voice – perhaps the most mocked voice of any animal out there. Why? Because it sounds like someone gargling. As far as bird songs go, it's not even close to being in the top 100.

Yes, all this struck me, while we drifted by a couple of ducks, which, admittedly, goes to show how slow the fishing actually was.

The thing is as soon as I got home, I went to my fly-tying bench and started organizing my collection of material. After a while, I found a box full of cul de canard packages.

What's cul de canard, you ask?

Well, it's a duck feather that someone plucks off of the preen gland of a duck, which is on a duck's rump. (If you ask someone what they do for a living and they refuse to answer, it is probably this.)

The preen gland has a waterproof oil that ducks rub their bills on and then preen into their feathers so they keep dry – which is another way of saying they can't use an umbrella like everyone else.

Anyhow, we fly tyers love this feather because the oil makes the feather very, very waterproof and buoyant. As a result, many fly patterns utilize them.

Here's the thing. I realized, I have dozens of packages of cul de canard. And I paid good money for each one. The same can be said of every fly tyer I know.

It occurs to me I might owe the ducks an apology…

pic *of the* **past**

Minden Public School, now Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Grade 2 class of Mrs. Nina Prentice, 1946. Back row from left, unknown; Barbara (Kernohan) Parish; Maxine (Swann) Stephen; Larry Harrison; unknown; Leon Loucks; Arnold Walker. From row from left, unknown; Charles Lazier; Virginia Leigh; unknown; unknown. If anyone can help fill in the names, please email emily@haliburtonpress.com.

The White Pelicans

Tales from the great Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

Summer is coming and it is cottage season! Those of us who don't have a cottage are eternally grateful when someone who has one shares it. Jim and I have been visiting friends in Tobermory and staying with them at their cozy and welcoming cottage.

It is just such a gift to be in this area and take in all of the life that lives here with us. We have spent our days hiking, biking and paddling in search of many different kinds of orchids, and of course birds who are moving through the area.

I personally have enjoyed seeing Ram's Head Ladyslipper Orchid for the very first time. They are these really little colourful plants that have what I think looked like whiskers. They are a beautiful magenta colour and we really had to slow down and be patient in order to see them. Being at the cottage gives us the gift of time. Time to explore and stop and listen and be with what is in front of us. It is a priceless gift.

I swear my husband feels like it is Christmas every day when we are up here, with the many magical moments. One evening we went out to a local restaurant for dinner, when my friend looked out the window and asked what type of birds were flying by. Jim responded right away and said they were four White Pelicans. The guys immediately jumped up from the table and ran outside to have a look. Jim was right; White Pelicans are one of the largest North American birds. These birds "soar with incredible steadiness on broad, white-and-black wings." They have large heads and huge, heavy bills that give them a prehistoric look. These birds do not normally travel through this part of the world. They are coming from the Gulf of Mexico where they spent their winters and are travelling to central Canada where they spend their summers. Some do spend their summers in Ontario. We finished our dinner and then hopped in our car and drove around checking various spots where they might land. We never did find them, but we had a lot of fun looking.

We've seen so many different species of birds on this trip and Jim has taken many beautiful photos. Our days at the cottage start slowly with the sun rising as we walk our dog. Our evenings are filled with campfires, sunsets and always a rousing game of Canasta. Together we all create delicious food every day. It is a simple and interesting life at the cottage with lots of time to explore and be. On behalf of all of us who visit your cottage this summer I want to say thank you for sharing your space and your life with us. It fills our hearts in so many ways. Let's have a great summer, everyone.

Minden Memories

Built in 1906 by R.A. Donald, the Donald Chemical Plant began producing charcoal for iron smelting by 1908. It later supplied key materials for WWI explosives. Operating for nearly 40 years, its ruins still draw curious visitors today. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Jump into June bike month with free tire changing demo

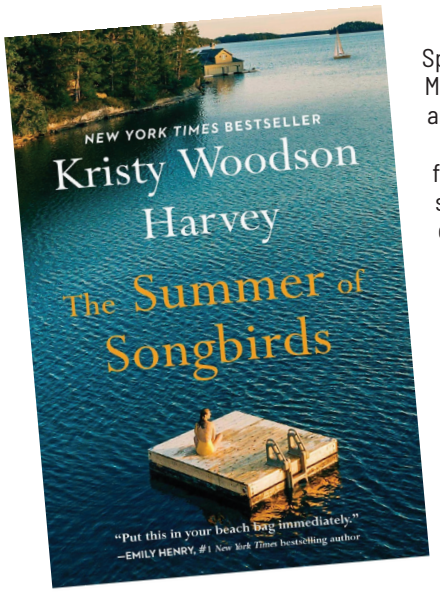
On Sunday, June 8, Darren Lum presents a great little demo on how you can change your own flat bike tire, something that intimidates many cyclists. Darren makes it fun to watch and easy to imagine it's something anyone can tackle. Also covered in this free demo is an essential ABC (+Q apparently) check to ensure your bike is safe to ride before you head out. This marks the beginning of Bike Month programming at the new Caboose Community Bike Hub, made possible through funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Programming will roll out all season until Sept. 30 in this pilot project to get people back on bikes or learn how to ride, and for all ages to ride more safely, more confidently and more often.

Darren's demo will be offered at two times this Sunday at 11:30 a.m and again at 1 p.m. It's free and everyone is welcome. You'll find the caboose at 9 York St in Haliburton Village, beside the Dysart Welcome Centre and facing Head Lake Park. The caboose is a remnant of Haliburton's railway history, as is the nearby Rails End Gallery in the restored railway station. The Community Bike Hub creates a new purpose for the faded caboose which had been sitting empty since the tourist info moved into the new Welcome Centre.

The "Fix a Flat & ABC Check" demo will demystify aspects of a bike that trouble people who feel they are not technically inclined, leading to new confidence. Call project coordinator Pamela Marsales at 705-457-4767 with any questions. Hope to see you Sunday at the caboose at 11:30 a.m. or 1 p.m., or both times if you want.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
Kristy Woodson Harvey
The Summer of Songbirds
"Put this in your beach bag immediately."
—EMILY HENRY, #1 New York Times bestselling author

Nearly thirty years after founding Camp Holly Springs to cope with personal tragedy, June Moore faces losing the camp she built her life around.

June's niece, Daphne, met her two best friends, Lanier and Mary Stuart, during a fateful summer at camp. They've all helped each other through hard things, from heartbreak and loss to substance abuse and unplanned pregnancy. But in spite of their personal problems, nothing is more important to these songbirds than Camp Holly Springs. When the women learn their childhood oasis is in danger of closing, they band together to save it, sending them on a journey that promises to open the next chapters in their lives.

The Summer of Songbirds by Kristy Woodson Harvey is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Country Night in the county

It was Country Night at the Pinestone Resort, Golf and Conference Centre Saturday night, featuring beginner line dance lessons and a dance party. Always in Boots line dance instructor Karley Stevenson kicked the night off with a two-hour lesson for close to 50 people before opening up the dance floor for all things country music later in the night. /ADAM FRISK

Always in Boots' Karley Stevenson poses for a photo during her two-hour beginner line dance lessons at the Pinestone.

Above, students of all ages, all across the county have created a tiny world that reflects the vibrancy and colour of Haliburton County. The show is on display at the Rail's End Gallery until June 13, and is a highly interactive showcase, encouraging all visitors to partake. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Left, HHSS students prepare the gallery's wall for the *Not to Scale* exhibition. /submitted

Rail's End exhibition showcases student's dreams

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

As the name implies, the *Not to Scale* exhibition was never intended to recreate Haliburton accurately. Accuracy is for the grown-ups and overthinkers.

From now until June 13, *Not to Scale* is the latest exhibit hosted at the Rail's End Gallery in Haliburton. Students from Grade 1 to Grade 12 participated in the exhibition, across all Haliburton schools including Stuart Baker Elementary School, J. D. Hodgson Elementary School, and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

This exhibition is both multi-dimensional and bilingual. Created entirely by our county's youth, visitors are able to see the youth's vision of our future. Every medium that can be thought of is used in the exhibition, from sand, to plastic, to cardboard, to paper leaves jumping from the wall.

A Haliburton scene is displayed on the table as you enter the gallery space. To the right, the side showing Haliburton's present features a massive locomotive beside the high school. Beside the locomotive, tiny, colourful houses sit beside the fountain and playground at Head Lake Park. Santa Claus makes an appearance, flying over the houses with three reindeer.

Separated by a large plexiglass wall, the futuristic Haliburton shows public transportation in the form of a double decker bus and electric scooters. Towering above houses and residents walking outside, there is a massive communications tower. The tower supplies the kids with a reliable internet and cellular reception.

"A new mall in Haliburton would be great," writes a student. "It will be bigger and better than the small mall we have now as it would allow new stores to come to Haliburton and offer a place to socialize with your friends and your family. When you think about it, the winters are long and it would be good."

Behind, the youth's favourite hangout spots sit atop two podiums. The signs for Subway and 241 Pizza are clearly recognizable. Many pieces also include a bilingual placard explaining the student's artistic decisions.

Lines of painter's tape guide you along Highland Street, through Haliburton. Students depict the Head Lake Park fountain, public docks, the locomotive, Molou's sign, and natural items collected from the forest at their house. Everything reflects what students think of when they think of Haliburton.

Everything reminds them of home.

At the end of the exhibition, there is a road marker sign, showing 39 kilometres to Kinmount Theatre, 13 to Abbey Gardens, 0.5 to A.J. LaRue Arena, 24 to Blairhampton Golf Course, 22 to Kawartha Dairy, and finally, 63 to the nearest McDonald's. All of the student's favourite places.

Between the entry and the road sign, a table invites guests to add anything they want to the exhibit. The table is taken from the historic Haliburton Lodge and is covered in art supplies, free to use.

Curator Laurie Jones says that several visitors have contributed to the exhibition. One young visitor made himself walking his dog out of pipe cleaners and added it to the side of Haliburton's future. Jones also assures that there is no age limit to adding to the exhibition.

Not to Scale evokes the concerns, ideals, and desires of Haliburton's future generation. The exhibition is continuously evolving and expanding through its visitors. While it has begun by local students, the exhibition continues to grow and shift in its meaning and representation of what is important to kids in our community.

Across the gallery, drawings from the *Better Together* student art showcase, held at the Haliburton School of Art and Design contrasts the experimental and diverse styles of *Not to Scale*. Abstract artworks depict Haliburton, with paintings depicting things like Haliburton's tank, Head Lake Park, and forests. The restraint of the medium and contrast to *Not to Scale* seem to highlight each artist's individuality. While the contrast between both exhibitions is powerful, threads connecting their similarities can be seen.

Not to Scale continues the Rail's End Gallery's tradition of showcasing student-led exhibitions. These exhibitions have taken place over the last 15 years and Jones says that the gallery has no plans of stopping. The theme of next year's student-led exhibition has not been decided yet.

Rail's End Gallery is a registered charity that provides creative arts engagement and shared experience in public spaces. Every year, they put on the Haliburton Art and Craft Festival. This year's festival will be taking place from July 25 to 27.

Rail's End Gallery is located at 23 York Street, in the old Haliburton train station. There is no fee for admission, but donations are greatly appreciated.

Red Hawk Prom

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's prom was held at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride on Saturday, May 31, in celebration of the class of 2025. Students put on some of their finest threads for the evening to celebrate the end of another school year. /ADAM FRISK

Students pose for a photo upon arrival at Sir Sam's to celebrate the class of 2025.

Friends pose for a group photo just before dinner.

Eva Bliedung and Hannah Sharpe smile in a mirror upon arriving at Sir Sam's for prom night.

Jocelyn Thompson and Addison St. Cyr enjoy the photo booth.

Friends share a laugh on the deck.

Jayde Rowden gives Adela Hubbart a kiss on the cheek while posing for a photo.

Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

Submitted by Lara Gallant (Gr. 11), Lilly Casey (Gr. 11), Caleb Manning (Gr. 11), Adrian Nienajadlo (Gr. 11)

Throughout the month of May, the high school has been busy with many exciting sports, events, and clubs.

In sports, the HHSS varsity girls soccer team has had a very good season so far competing in five regular season games. In these five games the girls came out with two wins and three losses. The team competed in the single A Kawartha championship at Kenner High School where we placed first. Hal High's Ultimate Frisbee team wrapped up a successful season this spring, competing in four tournaments held at Fleming College in Peterborough. Throughout the season, the team showed much growth, spirit, and hard play. They claimed the constellation championship to finish off their season.

The track and field team has been competing for OFSAA during the month of May. These athletes have been practicing and competing hard. For many of the athletes this hard work is paying off. The team will be competing at East Regionals.

In clubs, the chess club has been practising every Friday at lunch this school year and preparing for their first and only tournament this school year. Friday, May 30, HHSS competed against LCVI for a friendly and competitive tournament.

The Interact Club held an India Cultural Day at the school. There were many stations including Henna art, cricket, supportive letter writing to students in India, India-inspired food and drink table, and a Rangoli arts and craft station. There were also ducks being sold with the proceeds going to help the school in India. Many classes visited the stations and learned about and supported Indian culture. The Interact Club used this event as their international end of year project, where they all worked very hard for the month of May completing this.

During the month of May, the HHSS Drama Club held their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* where 27 students from HHSS put on three shows between May 23 to 25. The group of performers also performed a dress rehearsal in front of the Grade 7/8 classes at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. The shows had great audiences. Thank you to everyone who helped support the Drama Club.

In the month of May, the girls from Grades 9 to 12 who were interested in the trades travelled down to Toronto to participate in a Women in Trades fair. The fair had many stations and stands where people in trades would talk about their personal experiences with their job and it was an educational experience for the girls attending the event.

In all, May has been a very exciting month full of many big events and sport competitions. We are excited to be moving into the final month of the school year.

Red Hawks rock OFSAA East regional track

Five athletes to compete at OFSAA next week

The Red Hawk Track and Field team travelled to Ottawa on May 29 and 30 for OFSAA East Regionals competition. OFSAA East Regionals includes the top competitors from COSSA (Central Ontario), EOSSA (Eastern Ontario - Kingston) and the National Capital (Ottawa) Associations.

Red Hawks started off strong on the first day of competition, qualifying three athletes for OFSAA next week at York University in Toronto. The top four in each event move on to OFSAA, where the six regional meets convene the 24 top athletes in Ontario.

Addyson Parish started off the day with another personal best in the jumping pits, landing a leap of 5.31m to capture the Junior Girls East Regional title. Junior Boy Fynn Gooley continued the Red Hawks' success in the pits, with a best jump of 6.12m to earn him second-place finish and an OFSAA berth.

On the track, Senior Boy Graham Backus set a new personal best in the 400m hurdles, winning his heat and finishing in sixth place overall with a time of 59.41. Backus also competed in the 110m sprint hurdles Friday.

Senior Girl Cheyenne Degeer executed a really gutsy 400m Hurdle race, finishing fourth with a time of 1:05.96 improving nearly three seconds on her COSSA time from last week and securing another OFSAA spot for the Hawks.

Violet Humphries and Evan Backus faced tough competition as first-year seniors in the 200m. Backus finished with a new personal best time. Atticus Jorritsma narrowly missed qualifying for top eight in Junior Boys Discus, facing a very strong field of throwers.

In day two action, Addyson Parish ran to a fifth-place finish in the 80m hurdle heats, but chose to scratch her position in the final due to an injured foot and a time conflict with the Junior Girls Triple Jump, where she went on to take the crown with an 11.30m jump, just three centimeters shy of the East Regional record.

Luke Gruppe showed his strength and mental focus in the Novice Boys Discus to win the event with a nearly three metre personal best throw of 38.17m and secure a spot at next week's OFSAA competition.

Novice Boy Jett Wilson threw a personal best of 32.41m in the Javelin to finish tenth.

Jordanna Jennings put forth a good effort in the pits in Long and Triple Jump, struggling to hit her mark and facing tough competition as a first-year senior. Evan Backus also jumped consistently but faced very tough competition in Senior Boys.

Lilly Casey had a personal best in the 100m hurdles with a time of 17.05 to finish 11th. Casey also threw the Javelin as a first-year senior, finishing with a best throw of 25.89m to also finish 11th.

Novice Boy Jadyn Hamilton faced tough competition in the 100m, finishing ninth, just missing qualifying for the final. Hamilton fought back in his 400m race, shaving more than two seconds from his time last week to finish in 55.13 in a successful but heartbreaking fifth, missing OFSAA by one spot.

This feeling was familiar to Novice Girl Annika Gervais, who ran an intense and strategic 800m race, but lost the battle to the finish line, also receiving the black fifth-place ribbon. Gervais ran a six-second personal best with a time of 2:27.06 and was thrilled to receive the news the next day that she will get to compete at OFSAA due to a scratch in her event.

Gervais went on to run a season's best in the 400m, placing eighth in that event, along with Cheyenne Degeer who was eighth in the Senior Girls division.

Also in the 400m, Tristan Leslie surprised himself with a personal best of 53.15 in the Junior Boys race, running to a solid sixth place.

Erika Hoare ran a personal best time of 2:35.85 in the Senior Girls 800m and carried the baton on the last lap of the Girls 4x400m team, honouring her fourth and last high school track season. Hoare has been a dedicated and competitive member of the team since her grade nine year.

Our 4x100 and 4x400m relay teams all ran determined races with clean handoffs to round out the day. The Hawks top-finishing team was the Junior Boys runners of Hamilton, Jorritsma, Gruppe and Gooley finishing tenth, shaving nearly a full second off their best time of the season. The meet wrapped just before the thunderstorms that were forecasted earlier in the week hit Ottawa.

Submitted

Dymo Bus gets parking of its own

JAMES MATTHEWS
Journalist

Dysart council has reserved a space outside the Community Living Building to allow the Dymo Bus sole parking.

According to a report to township council, the Dymo Bus needs safe parking for pickup and drop-off at the Community Living Building on Mountain Street.

The bus pulls up on the side of Highway 118. That's hazardous because of other motorists that tear around the corner. The bus also pulls up onto the nearby curb on the corner.

"There were a few locations thrown out there, but the biggest problem area for the Dymo Bus pickup is in front of the Community Living Building on Mountain Street," said Hailey Cole, the township's municipal law enforcement supervisor.

Haliburton Bus Lines has requested the parking area between the No Parking sign and the driveway of 737 Mountain St. be designated for the Dymo Bus to stop Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. when it would be parking for the bus only.

Community Living personnel were concerned about adequate staff parking spaces. They asked that staff have parking passes for the location with the agreement staff will move their cars when the bus arrives.

"Essentially, if it were to be designated as a Dymo bus parking space, then the cars that frequent that parking area would either need to find some other street parking on Mountain or park at the arena or another location," Cole said.

> ***"The cars that frequent that parking area would either need to find some other street parking on Mountain or park at the arena or another location."***
>
> – Hailey Cole, Dysart law enforcement supervisor

The space can accommodate only about two cars right now.

Public Works was consulted and suggested bus only parking in this location at all times to avoid the last minute shuffling of cars when the bus arrives. That would also address cars regularly parking past the No Parking sign and blocking the sightline from Dysart Ave.

Staff have measured the distance between the No Parking sign and driveway to be almost 29 feet long. The length of the Dymo Bus is about 26 feet.

The Parking Bylaw requires vehicles to be parked at least one metre from the edge of a driveway. But the bus cannot park a little more than half a metre from the edge of the driveway while behind the No Parking sign.

The bus would either need to be allowed to encroach into the one metre from the driveway or the nine metres from the intersection by about five inches.

"These pickups and drop-offs are about 15 minutes," Cole said. "So it would be able a 15-minute time period when that encroachment would exist."

Mallory Bishop, the township's clerk, said Cole will provide an amended Parking Bylaw to allow the bus encroachment.

Rotarians get a break on concert series washroom fees

JAMES MATTHEWS
Journalist

Dysart council agreed to waive washroom fees for a series of summer concerts.

The township's cost to operate the Welcome Centre washrooms at Head Lake Park for an evening is tallied to be $113.

The Haliburton Rotary Club has requested the last three years to have the fees waived for the washroom facilities. According to a park use agreement, the club would pay $100 per evening during the Rotary Music in the Park 10-week summer concert series.

Andrea Mueller, the municipality's programs and events manager, suggested during council's May 27 meeting that the fees be waived for the rest of council's term. That would mean next year's fees will be wiped as municipal elections are slated for October 2026.

"Just to save the request coming again next year," she said.

Mueller said other options would be for council to charge the Rotarians a flat rate or to charge the full listed fees.

Survey launches to understand local lake users

from page 1

wake-enhancing technology, such as shapers and wedges, and have 720 gallon internal ballasts.

There are two desired sports with the waves: wakeboarding, where the rider trails the boat with a tow line, and rides the low waves behind the boat, or wake surfing, when the driver makes bigger waves, allowing the rider to drop the tow - closely resembling ocean surfing.

"So what's the big deal?" posed MacInnes. While he noted that wind also creates energy and movement on the lakes, nothing comes close to the impact that the wake boats have on the natural shoreline. "Kashagawigamog is losing a couple of feet of shoreline each year," he said, noting the unnatural erosion caused from the artificial wakes.

He shared that the disappearing shorelines have an impact on property values, economic stability, and wildlife habitats. "What will happen if our loons disappear, and we don't have the call of the loons anymore?" he asked the concerned crowd.

And MacInnes wasn't the only one with worries around wakes. A whole team of individuals have taken it upon themselves to dive deeper into the implications of these "monster trucks of the lakes".

As the science started to point towards the boats being far more than a common annoyance to the generally tranquil lake life, a Safe Lakes Coalition has been formed, from concerned individuals across the country. They have partnered with researchers from universities and scientific programs to showcase the imbalance of risk versus reward when it comes to using wake boats on lakes.

"This is an unmitigated disaster" said Dr. Timothy James, who sits on the CHA, as well as the Safe Lakes Coalition. "We haven't seen waves this size since the last Ice Age."

And the large scale waves do more than lap away at the shoreline. They also cause issues under water. With the oversized propellor, often tipped at a low angle to allow for the waves to erupt out the back, the sediment that has settled into the bottom of the lakes is blown around. This causes an imbalance to the lake nutrients, as well as posing a risk to an increase in blue-green algae, which instantly impacts lake health, the ability to swim, and property values.

The wakes also kill or hurt birds, fish, and a variety of aquatic species, drastically impacting the holistic ecosystem of local lakes.

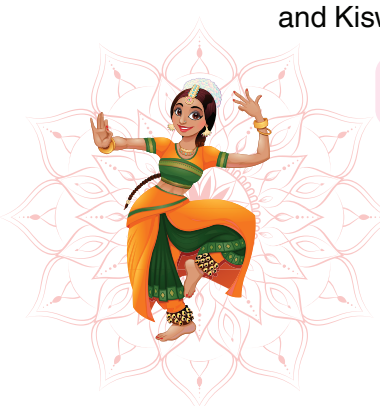
Beyond lake health, MacInnes also noted that wake boats play a part in the overall experience for others on the lake, often tipping or crashing with non-motorized vessels, or damaging docks with the unprecedented waves.

In response to the changing nature of lake recreation, the organization Safe Quiet Lakes will be launching a public survey on June 17. This will be the fourth survey over the past 14 years, tracking activities, perceptions and concerns of lake users. It's the largest survey of its kind known to date, covering the regions of Haliburton County, Muskoka, and Georgian Bay. This year's survey will focus specifically on enhanced wakes, and possible solutions that can be put in place, so everyone can enjoy the health of local lakes for a long time.

The online survey is available for anyone to see, and can be found at safequiet.ca. Survey results will be accepted until July 21.

FREE Dance Classes

Join Jasmin for an enchanting dance extravaganza showcasing the rich heritage of Indian, Arabic traditions, Gujarati songs and dances, and Kiswahili African rhythms.



All levels and ages welcome!

Tuesdays, June 3 - 24 @ 11 AM
Thursdays, June 5 - 26 @ 7 PM
Bandshell @ Head Lake Park

705-457-1740 x.635
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AH councillors go against County Official Plan

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While the decision does not appease everyone, the ongoing conversation around a hobby farm in Algonquin Highlands has reached its conclusion.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen opened the special meeting of council on May 29 by addressing the full house in attendance. "I really would like to thank everyone for coming," said Danielsen. "It is a bit of a delight to have a room of people showing their interest, and it's rare."

A testament to the concern surrounding rezoning the property in question from Shoreline Residential to Rural, which would allow for the growth and development of a hobby farm, including pigs, chickens, and fruit trees.

The topic first came up in September of last year. At the time, council deferred the rezoning, asking for a proper environmental impact study. Since then, the township has received the study, as well as a nutrient management plan study with pigs on-site.

The kicker though, is that the township had also received feedback from the County of Haliburton that the rezoning application goes against their Official Plan. A battle of upper and lower tier government.

The back and forth prompted Sean O'Callaghan, Algonquin Highlands' planner, to open the meeting by saying they do not support the proposal. "Several letters of objection were received," he said. "Staff have also received revised comments from the County of Haliburton, now in objection of the proposal, specifically with respect to the property not having frontage on a year-round, publicly maintained road."

Councillor Sabrina Richards challenged O'Callaghan on this, inquiring about whether the property would be zoned residential or shoreline residential, if it was a new lot created today.

"That's a challenging question to answer," he said. "(It's) more in character with a Rural piece of property versus a Shoreline Residential piece of property. That's been my opinion throughout this process."

He noted that the property does fall within 150 metres of a body of water, being Halls Lake. "But that line is not hard and fast. That is open to interpretation."

There are a number of other properties surrounding the property in question that are within similar ranges, and zoned Rural.

Which brought to attention the primary sticking point: pigs.

According to the zoning bylaw, the owners of the property can have a nutrient value of 1.5, which equates to four pigs and a handful of chickens, before the nutrients in the soil are compromised. "What I'm sensing is that the pigs are not considered compatible with the neighborhood," said Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux. "If one considers that compatibility is a social construct as much as anything else."

"It's almost like this comes down to the fact that it's pigs," agreed Danielsen.

O'Callaghan noted that no concerns were brought forward regarding the proposed hobby farm from the County of Haliburton, rather, the access point was

> ***"What I'm sensing is that the pigs are not considered compatible with the neighborhood ...***
>
> — AH Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux

the item in conflict with their Official Plan.

He shared that between the environmental study and the nutrient management plan study (at the time, done with eight pigs as opposed to the four on-site), "there shouldn't be any drainage - overland drainage off the property." He said that he understands that the soil type would absorb any run-off, and the pigs would reside in a basin-shaped enclosure, which would capture any risk of overflow.

In terms of pig maintenance, concerns were brought up around risks of sickness, pig pregnancies, and escaped pigs. O'Callaghan shared that there is not a specific municipal bylaw around the topic, so at this time, any local pig problems would be deferred to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

"I've got a little bit of a challenge with the fact that the County, although it is in their Official Plan, felt that there were ways to deal with the access issue," said Danielsen. "It seems to be the only outstanding issue coming from them."

It was reiterated that the County did not have concerns with the hobby farm in proposal.

Specific queries were brought up around a site plan for the property, noting that those decisions and implications do not go through council, rather, are at the prerogative of staff.

"I understand the want to close this matter up," said Coun. Richards, "but I'm trying to understand why we would not follow the procedure of requiring the Official Plan amendment," referencing the need for the applicant to go through County Council with the ask before proceeding with the rezoning.

"I personally just think this matter has gone on long enough," said Danielsen. "We have been elected to make decisions, and that is simply putting the decision off."

While the initial recommendation from Algonquin Highlands staff was to refuse the application, Danielsen made the suggestion that council support the application, with site plan control. Council members agreed, unanimously.

"I believe, and I am quite confident that it is shared around Council, that the environment is paramount for our community," said Dailloux. "It really is paramount. But I am not seeing a reason from the evidence that we've been given that this would jeopardize the lake in a direct way."

Dysart taxpayers shouldn't pay for Epic Road upgrades: director

JAMES MATTHEWS

Journalist

Dysart council has a clearer idea of what it will cost to bring Epic Road to municipal standard.

Council received a request at its April 22 meeting that the municipality maintain Epic Road on a year-round basis. The municipality currently maintains the road during the summer months. A similar request was denied in 2007.

Rob Camelon, the township's public works director, told council when it met May 27 that a rough idea of what it would cost to bring the thoroughfare to acceptable municipal standard could be about $216,000.

That's without taxes applied.

That's for 100 metres of road that is about four metres wide for most of its length. The standard required road width is seven metres.

Epic Road, located off of Pine Point Road and stretching along the north shore of Kennisis Lake, is currently maintained in the summer only. Blossom Lane, which is adjacent to Epic Road, is a privately-maintained road on a municipal road allowance.

One councillor took a drive out to the area and seemed disheartened afterwards.

"I can't believe we took over Pine Point and the other road there," the councillor said. "I don't know whoever said we could plow those roads. They're terrible."

"They are terrible," Mayor Murray Fearrey said.

Pine Point Road was assumed by the township in 1978.

"And we actually had a petition submitted in 1979 where they didn't want it brought up to standard," Camelon said. "We knew full well what we were assuming back at the time. Obviously a lot more people are living up there now than there ever were in the '70s."

"So that'll be up to the owners to decide to bring it up to standard or not," Fearrey said.

If the property owners on Epic Road decide to bring it up to standard, the municipality may then assume its year-round maintenance.

"That's council's discretion," Camelon said. "At the very least it should be brought up to standard, but it should not be on the backs of taxpayers."

Roadside Brush Collection Program
Zone 5 Pickup information:
If you live within this zone, please place your brush on the roadside for collection by 7:00 am, Monday, June 9th. Pickup is available on County and Township roads only.
To view the pickup zones, visit: https://haliburtoncounty.ca/brushcollection
This program is available to properties that are currently on year-round, municipally maintained roads. To check eligibility, residents are encouraged to review the map and collection schedule at the website below.
More Info:
Website:
https://haliburtoncounty.ca/brushcollection
Email:
brushcleanup@haliburtoncounty.ca
Collection runs from May 12- June 13
Visit our website for FAQs
Haliburton Highlands
Township of Minden Hills

Pictured, rock hounders of all ages are able to get outside and check out the rare geological offerings across Haliburton County. /FILE photos

Rockhounding rocks in Haliburton County

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

While driving on Highway 35 last week, I noticed a man swinging at the rock on the side of the road.

An unusual site, but I figured they must be with the ministry or some other township official. That was not the case, as when I drove past, I saw them wearing bug netting and piling their collections into Home Depot buckets. The buckets were thing stuffed into their trunk.

This led me down a rabbit hole in which I learned the term rockhounding. Rockhounding is the hobby of collecting rocks, minerals, fossils, and other earthly materials that can be mined from the ground.

While I knew that Bancroft held an annual Rockhound Gemboree festival every year (July 31 to Aug. 3 this year), I thought that Rockhound was the name of the festival's mascot, not something that people did.

The situation of the Haliburton Highlands on the Canadian Shield provides us with unique geological formations in the county. When glaciation occurred, it scraped off the largest layers of soil, resulting in easy access to rocks.

Ask any gardener in the county and they will share with you their frustrations regarding a lack of soil and an abundance of boulders.

The adjacent Hasting County, home of the Rockhounding Gemboree, is known as the Mineral Capital of Canada. As Hastings County's closest neighbour, Haliburton County's mineral deposits should not be overlooked.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

You are cordially invited to the

29th Annual Meeting of the
Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation
Thursday, June 26, 2025
HHHS Minden Auditorium
6 McPherson St., Minden

1:30-2:00 p.m. – Arrival / Registration / Refreshments
2:00-2:45 p.m. – Annual Meeting*
2:45-3:00 p.m. – Question & Answer Session**

Annual Meeting business will include:
Minutes of June 27, 2024 Annual Meeting
Report of the Corporation
Presentation of Financial Statements
Appointment of Auditors
Election of Directors

Guest Speaker: Donna Duncan, CEO, Ontario Long-Term Care Association

**Invited guests are welcome to observe the Annual Meeting. Please note that per Corporate By-law Article 4.7, voting is limited to Corporate Members in attendance in person.*
***All attendees in person and virtual are welcome to participate in the Q&A Session following the close of the meeting.*

Due to limited seating capacity, please register by June 18/25 if you will be attending in person by calling 705-457-2527. To attend virtually, please register through the QR Code.

In 2020, Highlands East became the first municipality in Ontario to secure public mineral collecting sites and allow both visitors and residents to extract and collect minerals for free. Their mineral collecting locations include the Schickler Fluorite Occurrence, Desmont Mine, and Titanite Hill (Gibsons East Road Occurrence). With the Schickler Fluorite Occurrence and the Desmont Mine location requiring a waiver for permission to visit, I tossed a coin to decide on which rockhounding spot I should try out first.

The coin landed on heads, leading me to the Schickler Fluorite Occurrence.

In a 1981 field report, geologist H.D. Meyn writes "This property can be reached by a trail on the first hill east of the Cope Lake Road on the Mumford Road. This is another of the several calcite, fluorite-apatite vein deposits. No vein material was seen in place. All of it is removed. But mineral specimens remain and scapolite crystals line the wall (ceiling) of the cut in one place."

Unbeknownst to me, I had actually walked past the path towards the Schickler Occurrence while searching for a fork in the road to locate a geocache in the area.

This time, instead of my cell phone, pen, and Geocaching Capital of Canada book, I had a rockhounding hammer, collapsible shovel, and backpack to put my specimens in. On YouTube, I had found videos of rockhounds pulling perfectly shaped crystals and rocks with purple veins streaking through them.

I was confident that I could also find a gem. A pamphlet from 2021 tells me that the Schickler Occurrence's mine is full of hexagonal crystals of red and green apatite, red and purple fluorite, white calcite, yellow scapolite, feldspar, and green pyroxene. All options would be beautiful mineral specimens and I am not a picky man.

Lathering myself in bug repellant and a bug hat, I began to hike up the hill to the Schickler Occurrence. Hiking for much longer than expected, I knew that I was lost. Retracing my steps, it turns out that Highlands East has clearly marked the trail to the mine with red ribbon on the trees.

The Schickler Occurrence looks like a playground of rock, dug holes, and a cave that others have explored. While it is clear that people have visited it to collect minerals, there was no one there with me during the week.

I began to dig frantically, not knowing how far to dig down or where to dig to find mineral samples. Digging straight down into the dirt, I did not find any hexagonal crystals like the people in the YouTube videos, so I switched gears and poked my head into the cave at the mining site. While small, it is a very interesting site to behold. Scratch marks line the roof of the overhang, with rubble from excavating rocks lining the bottom of it. Out of my element, I began to look through the piles of rocks left behind by past rockhounders. Surprisingly, I found some stones with tiny crystals formations. When I brought them home, they could be clearly seen shining under a UV light. A tiny find, but my first successful venture into rockhounding.

While I did not find any stunning gemstones, I highly recommend visiting the sites that Highlands East has to offer. Rockhounding is the opportunity to go out and explore nature, while sometimes finding a souvenir you can take home with you.

Applications for mineral collecting can be submitted on Highlands East website. Three days of advance notice must be given in order to process your application. There is no fee for mineral collecting, but the municipality does ask rockhounders not to harvest from the same site more than once per year. Titanite Hill does not require permission to visit.

Sturdy footwear, gloves, and a hat are recommended while rockhounding. Other useful equipment can include a shovel, trowel, rock pick, safety glasses, backpack, and paper to wrap your specimens in.

Highlands East offers mineral collecting areas that seem barely touched by humanity. There is so much potential and mystery surrounding what crystals lie beneath, that their rockhounding sites are surely worth the visit.

If solo rockhounding is not your thing, Greenmantle Mineral Tours, located at 1984 Essonville Line in Wilberforce, offers tours for visitors to look at mineral specimens and is the only known location of the rare mineral flurorichterite. Greenmantle Mineral Tours can be booked by emailing greenmantlemineraltoiurs@gmail.com. Yours Outdoors also offers rockhounding tours available by request through their website yoursoutdoors.ca.

Minden Truck Pull and Show and Shine switches gears to cornhole

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

After a successful winter season of ice races, the Minden Kin Club are hard at work in preparing for their annual Truck Pull and Show and Shine event held at the Minden Fairgrounds. This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 28.

Many readers may remember the ATV mud bog event held at the fairgrounds. The mud bog event was fun for ATV enthusiasts, but required digging the mud hole, then filling in the hole, grating it, and reseeding grass to grow. Year after year of digging, then refilling the hole, the Kin Club finally decided to end the event.

Last year, ATV races were put on as a replacement to the mud bog. While it was received well, the Kin Club has decided to pursue a different direction with this year's Truck Pull and Show and Shine. This year, there will be a cornhole tournament.

Cornhole has spread like wildfire across the county and Kin Club President Andy Rickman is hopeful that the tournament will draw more people earlier in the day, making it a full day of events.

Last year, over 80 trucks participated in the Show and Shine portion of the event. Over half of the trucks also participated in the truck pull.

Mud flies while a 1980s truck pulls during a Minden Kin Club Truck Pull and Show and Shine. /FILE

"All vehicles are judged on how well you clean and present your vehicle," says Rickman. Rickman also notes that the intention of the event is to show off vehicles that are used regularly. Working vehicles are taken into the shop, cleaned up, and shined up for the show. Participants range from all ages and Rickman says that his 13 year old daughter will be participating with her pickup truck. Many of the show's participants include second and third generation of truck operators.

The Kin Club will have a food booth and beer garden available for visitors.

While having a full day of events planned, Rickman says that his favourite part of the day remains the truck pull itself.

"My favourite is the modified diesel pickups," said Rickman. "They are loud, obnoxious, and fun."

"The truck pull itself brings in a lot of people," said Christa Rickman, Kin Club's event organizer.. "The more noise, the more people like to watch."

The cornhole tournament will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 28 at the Minden Fairgrounds. Registration of the Show and Shine ends at 11 a.m. and the pull begins at noon. Admission is $15 per adult, $5 for kids aged 12 to 16 and free for those 12 and under. Camping is available on the fairgrounds and costs $50 per night (which includes two admissions).

All proceeds gathered from the event will be collected by the Kin Club and used within the community or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The Kin Club's motto is to serve the community's greatest need. Recently, the Kin Club donated $10,000 towards the Minden Community Food Centre and are working on providing accessible washrooms at the fairgrounds.

"We strongly support Minden first," said Rickman. "Then Haliburton County and the surrounding areas."

Haliburton Mountain Bike Club shifting into high gear

ADAM FRISK

Guest Columnist

The Haliburton Mountain Bike Club is shifting into high gear for the 2025 season with a growing membership and a collective environment.

The club hosted its annual general meeting on May 10 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, outlining plans for this year's riding season, including new membership perks and collaborations with other regional clubs.

"We're working on member benefits with local businesses, restaurants and bike clubs," Jason Bradley, the club's social media coordinator, said at the general meeting. "Looking at Huntsville, Horseshoe Valley and up to the Muskoka (club) … they're keen on having some cross-relationships between clubs."

The benefits would include discounts at a variety of shopping destinations in town and trail discounts at regional clubs.

What started as a small group building trails in Glebe Park more than 20 years ago, the club has become organized while seeing ridership continually increase year over year.

"Last year we had almost twice as many members as any other year," team leader Mike Darlington said ahead of the general meeting. "We are already at 38 this year and the season really only started a week ago."

The club estimates ridership will explode this season as the group takes on more social initiatives in a collective environment.

"There'll be over 100 (members) this year, easy," Bradley said. "We're doing a pretty big drive on social media to get more involvement, trying to get more of a collective environment, where people are coming together having social events and group rides."

Riders can enjoy 14 kilometres of single-track, intermediate to expert trails, where your skill level will be tested. The park also features Nordic ski trails which are considered beginner-level riding for those looking to ease into the sport.

The Haliburton Mountain Bike Club has kicked off for the summer season, and anticipates that the club will grow as the season progresses. /ADAM FRISK

Plans for youth camps and skill-building workshops, working with local professionals of the sport, are in the works for this year, Bradley said. Weekly group rides of all skill-levels have already kicked off on Wednesday nights.

Graham Borgdorff, a club member for about four years and recently elected treasurer, said with the increase in popularity of the sport of mountain biking, it's great to have a group like this in Haliburton and is looking forward to further growth of the club.

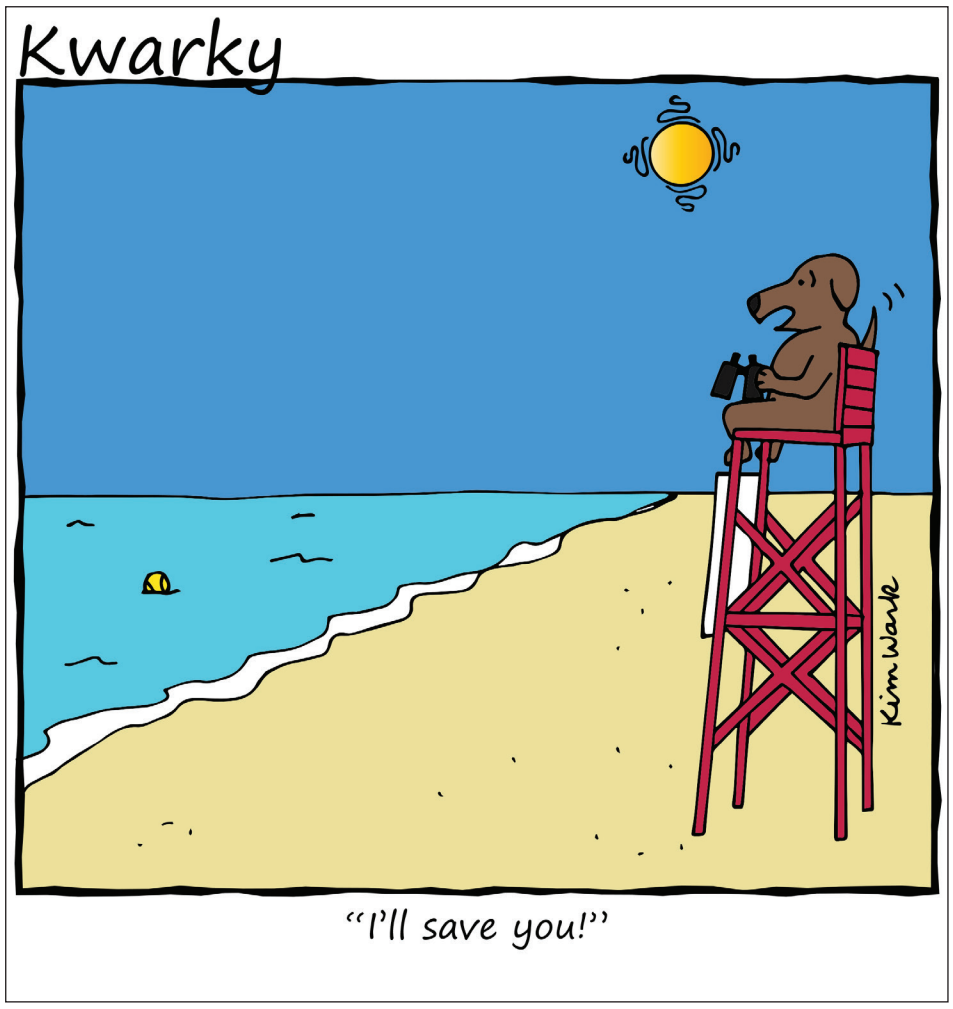
"We're pretty excited to see where we can go," Borgdorff said at a recent Wednesday night club ride. "We've got lots of support, and friends over in Bracebridge and Huntsville, so we'll see how it goes."

Echoing Borgdorff's sentiments, trails coordinator Luke Lester said one of the goals this year is to make the system more accessible for all skill levels. There's about 10 kilometres of technical trials on the "front side" of Glebe Park, while another four kilometres can be accessed near the public landfill which would become more for the advanced riders, Lester explained.

"The one thing about Glebe we always joke about is if you can ride Glebe, you can ride anywhere," Lester said. "This is one of the most, if not the most technical trail any of us have ever ridden. What would be nice is for this side of the system to be more accessible for beginners, kids, so we are hoping to improve the trail themselves, making them a little less technical in some areas.

"More flow is the word," Lester said with a chuckle.

As for membership fees, it's $25 for individuals and $60 for a family. The fees go towards mandatory insurance, equipment for trail maintenance among other expenses. Donations for single-day use can also be made via donation box at Glebe Park entrance.



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7		3	4					

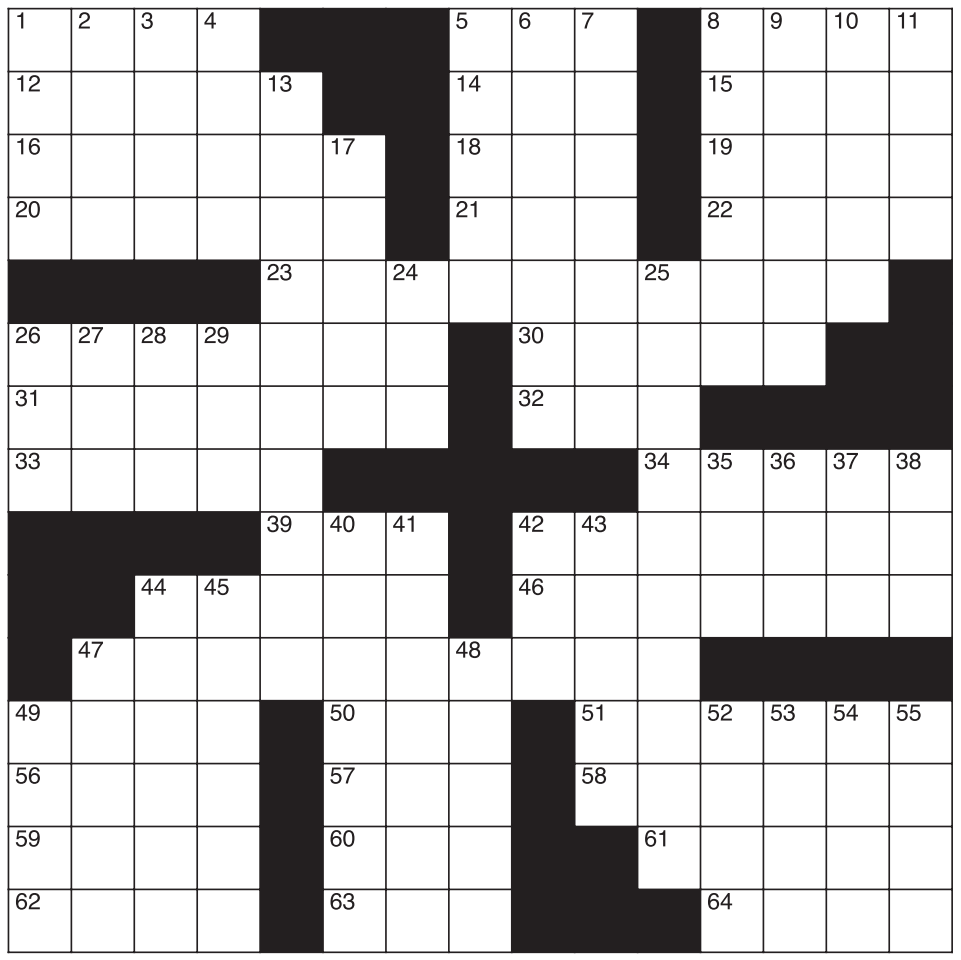
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 19



CLUES ACROSS
1. 50 percent
5. Records electric currents
8. Charlize Theron flick "__ Flux"
12. More frosty
14. Disfigure
15. Sky color
16. A thoroughfare in a town or city
18. Actress de Armas
19. Spend time in a relaxed way
20. California peak
21. Lodging option
22. Small amount of a thing
23. Expresses sorrow
26. Keeps an ear warm
30. Babies (Spanish)
31. A conceited and self-centered person
32. No seats available
33. Pouches
34. Hip joints
39. A place to bathe
42. Evading
44. Minute, one-celled unit
46. Losing one's hair
47. A country in W Africa
49. One point north of northeast
50. Pointed end of a pen
51. Extreme
56. Norse personification of old age
57. Doctors' group
58. Member of U.S. Navy
59. Mens' fashion accessories
60. A way to allow
61. Gloomy
62. Grads wear one
63. Between south and southeast
64. Jaguarundi cat

CLUES DOWN
1. Snakes do it
2. Hormone
3. The standard monetary unit of Turkey
4. Fixed charges
5. Electronic communication
6. Artilleries
7. "Strangers on a Train" actor Farley
8. Burning
9. Makes ecstatically happy
10. Greek liqueurs
11. Tropical Old World tree
13. Someone who takes vengeance
17. Style of cuisine
24. Select
25. Immunized against disease
26. Old world, new
27. Honorable title (Turkish)
28. Court case: __ v. Wade
29. Supervises interstate commerce
35. Not divisible by two
36. Twelve
37. Commentator Coulter
38. Encourage
40. Plumbing fixtures
41. Early
42. One point north of due east
43. King of Thebes
44. Short-tailed martens
45. Impose a penalty on
47. Consort of Poseidon
48. A way to lessen
49. Brooklyn hoops team
52. Female of a horse
53. Do as one is told
54. A way to prepare meat
55. Unit of measurement

Answers on page 19

Here for the Home Show

The Haliburton Home and Cottage Show took place over the weekend where more than 140 community-based vendors. New and old businesses showcased what they had to offer during the three-day event at the A.J. LaRue Arena and the Haliburton Curling Club. /ADAM FRISK

People get an early start on the Haliburton Home and Cottage Show on Friday afternoon, checking out local businesses and services.

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Adam MacIntosh of Taylor Made Contracting.

Ray Martin and Scott O'Donnell of Eco-Choice Pest Control pose for a photo at the Haliburton Home and Cottage Show.

Heather and Sue Little of Little Bloom Co. pose for a photo.

Local author launches third standalone novel

Marie Gage is proud to announce the release of her third novel, *A Touch of Promise.* It is a post-WWII tale of resilience and sisterhood. This heartfelt story takes readers on a journey through love, loss, and renewal, portraying the courage of women, particularly war brides, navigating life in the aftermath of World War II.

A Touch of Promise re-introduces readers to Pearl Griffith, the protagonist from *Promise of the Bluebell Woods.* Pearl is a young British war bride who dares to leave her homeland, family, and everything familiar to start a new life in Canada, with her beloved soldier husband. But what begins as a hopeful chapter quickly turns into an uphill battle as Pearl faces emotional abuse from her mother-in-law and wrestles with feelings of isolation from family and friends.

Amid her struggles, Pearl finds solace in an unlikely sisterhood - a diverse group of women who share their strength, humour, and understanding, building new bonds that deepen her sense of purpose while connecting her to new friends.

With the weight of her challenges, Pearl must summon her inner resilience to prove her worth and embrace her newfound life with dignity and hope.

Author Janet Trull, in her review posted on Goodreads, congratulates Marie Gage, "for capturing this pivotal historic era with a story empowered by perseverance, loyalty, the power of love, and friendships that help us weather the storms of life."

Author Brenda Pettigrew found, "the characters so real that we might have met them!" Going on to say, "Marie Gage almost paints scenes in vivid detail, enhanced greatly by clear dialogue which draws the reader into the conversation being held."

An official launch of this novel is planned for June 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 1827 Wigamog Rd, Haliburton. Everyone is welcome for some treats, book signing and a reading by the author.

About the Author

Marie Gage is a talented storyteller with a gift for weaving fact and fiction into tales of strength, compassion, and triumph. This third installment in her Promise Series of standalone, yet connected novels, has captivated readers with its celebration of the resilience and profound connections of otherwise ordinary people. Through her writing, Gage continues to shine a light on the everyday moments that shape extraordinary lives.

Submitted

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Haliburton County has many great options for supporting local businesses.
Check out our business directory at **haliburtonchamber.com** and check out our social media for local business highlights.

If you would like to become a member of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce visit us at: www.haliburtonchamber.com

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SIRCH heads to Minden

SIRCH Repair Cafe has a new home for the month of June, this time, at the Minden Community Centre, located at 55 Parkside Street in Minden. The helpful volunteer fixers were onsite this past weekend, ready to give old items a second chance at life.

Pictured, Dave Paddock lubricates the gears of Frances Thivierge's bike. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Rick Elliot laughs while tinkering away on an antique lighter. Michael Kursbatt watches beside him.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A	R	Y	E				E	S	S		H	S	A	S
R	A	E	R	D			T	E	L		S	E	I	T
E	E	B	A	E	S		A	M	A		I	L	L	E
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Hana Curtis sews a hole in a backpack at SIRCH's Repair Cafe.

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650 OBITUARIES

Paul Sheriff
Resident of Algonquin Highlands
Puppa Paul

Passed away peacefully at Haliburton Hospital. Survived by Laura, Keith, his son Kevin, daughter-in-law Louise, grandchildren Allysa, Connor, and Alexis. Predeceased by his parents, Marjorie and Bonamy Sheriff.

With helping hands and a heart of gold, he touched the lives of many. From his youthful days spent at Kilcoo Camp, his affection for Haliburton grew. As an adult, he claimed a piece of paradise on Maple Lake and, in 1995, embraced his role as a proud permanent resident. He reveled in watching his son Kevin and his friends flourish, creating treasured memories during weekends spent together.

As a proud Puppa of three, he showered love upon his three grandchildren, embodying the essence of a supportive grandparent throughout his life.

He will forever dwell in our hearts, his spirit never to be forgotten.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per the family's wishes, funeral arrangements are private. Cremation has taken place. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Paul's memory can be made to the Haliburton 4C's Foodbank. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. 118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Bruce Ballentine

1943-2025

Passed away peacefully at Sunnybrook Hospital after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. He is lovingly remembered by his daughter Ashley, his son Jeffrey, their mother Rochelle Volchoff, and his grandson Brendon. Bruce was predeceased by his beloved son, Tyler.

He will also be fondly remembered by Natalie Chinsam, Mike and Leslie Koster, whose support meant so much to him, and by his devoted partner, Barbara Earle.

Bruce made his home in Haliburton, where he found joy in hiking, golfing, relaxing on the deck by the lake, and, of course, savouring a good "gourmet" meal.

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held at a later date.

Louise McDonald

Resident of Haliburton

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Louise McDonald at Extendicare-Haliburton on Thursday afternoon, May 29, 2025, at the age of 83, with her loving family by her side. Beloved wife of the late Dean McDonald, cherished mother to Lori (Dwaine Lloyd) of Haliburton and Sheila (Jerry Kunes) of Combermere. Louise was a devoted and much-loved Gramma to Graeme Lloyd, Austin Lloyd (Yazmine), Miranda Tomasetti (Pat), Amy Tomasetti, and Kyler Tomassetti (Jazmine). She was also a proud Great Gramma to Brennan, Madisyn, Savannah, Cameron, Molly, Alexia, and Jesse, and a Great Great Gramma to Alice. She will be deeply missed by her sister, Marilyn Beaumont, and was predeceased by her brothers Oliver and Keith Hillock. Louise's warmth, kindness, and love will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew her.

Celebration Of Life

Friends were invited to call at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario on Sunday afternoon, June 1, 2025 from 1-3 p.m. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Louise's memory can be made to Extendicare - Proud Pioneers or Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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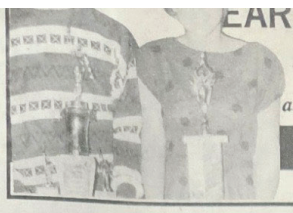
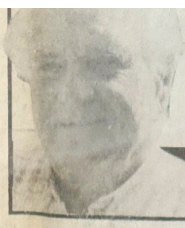
Editorial wins national award.
EDITORIAL
See page 6



EARN AWARDS
HHSS honours its best players at annual awards banquet.
FEATURE
See page 8



THANKS
Marshall and Helen Leighton travel to Holland and back in time.
PEOPLE
See page 19

When Norma Goodger speaks, cottager power resonates.
LIFE
See County Life

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 108 No. 29 Wednesday, June 6, 1990 36 pages 50 cents

WALKING FOR WATER: This enthusiastic group of walkers led the way from Rotary Beach at the official beginning of this year's Walk for Water. The event raised more than $10,000 to help bring clean water to people in Third World countries. For more details, see story on Page 2.

Businesses fuming as Dysart waits for report

by MICHAEL WOLOSCHUK
Staff Reporter

Tempevs are rising high in Haliburton as local businesses try to file damage claims in the wake of the May 23 Moss's Pond beaver dam flood.

While the municipality waits for the results of an engineer's study on the flood to come in, Haliburton residents affected by the deluge say that they are being kept in the dark about its causes because the council is afraid the finger of blame will point at them.

"I don't like (Dysart et al Reeve) Bill Davis's attitude about this situation at all," says Beryl O'Connor, owner of Highland Window and [illegible].

She and other business people in the area are critical of the way Davis and the entire Dysart council has handled the details in the flood's aftermath.

Last week the municipality decided to wait for an engineer's report on the cause of the flood before commenting on who or what was responsible for the breaking of the beaver dam.

"He's playing games with us," says O'Connor. "I don't know who's responsible, but I don't want to be stuck in the middle."

O'Connor's store suffered extensive damage as torrents of water ripped through Maple Avenue on its way to Head Lake. Although she hasn't estimated the entire cost the flood has cost her business, she admits to spending "a lot of time just cleaning up the mess, and paying workers overtime to help out."

She and her husband are furious that the council hasn't publicly advertised instructions on how people can forward damage claims to the municipality. O'Connor says that all the information she's heard about flood claims "has been through word of mouth."

In a telephone interview yesterday, Dysart Clerk-Treasurer Donna McCallum said that anyone with a damage claim resulting from the flood should forward a letter stating damages and expenses to the Dysart municipal office. These will be forwarded to the municipality's insurance company for review.

Although her business is keeping its head above water, O'Connor is concerned for people who aren't fortunate enough to have kept some money aside for a rainy day.

"We're lucky we have money in the bank. Otherwise, who would have covered our bills? It's so ridiculous, the whole thing just makes me sick."

Meanwhile, Davis says that the engineers studying the flood hope to have their report completed in a week. Until their report comes in, he says, it is useless trying to comment on the situation.

"It's going to be hard to determine a cause," he says. "I can have my suspicions, you can have your suspicions, but we need to have some evidence."

Davis admits that the road superintendent and crew and council "have been taking some flak" over the flood, but the municipal council won't do anything about it until the engineer's study is released.

If it turns out that the flood was the municipality's fault, he says, then all claims will be covered by liability insurance.

Until then, Davis says he and the council express sympathy for people hit by the flood.

"It's tough — there are people hurting out there. Everyone to a person on council feels for what they're going through. I feel badly for them.

"It's really complex. It's not a cut-and-dried thing and the severity of the situation is very great."

Severity or no, Jill Cook of Cook's Produce argues that the municipality's response to the

Please turn to page 2

Echo chosen best in Canada for 2nd year

For the second year in a row, *The Haliburton County Echo* has been judged the best community newspaper in Canada in its circulation category. The award for overall excellence came in annual Canadian Community Newspaper's Association Competition involving more than 800 small town papers in all 10 provinces.

In addition to the first place award for broadsheet newspapers with a circulation of 4,500 to 6,499, The Echo garnered two other awards. Publisher Len Pizzey was awarded first prize for the best editorial on a local topic published in a paper with a circulation between 4000 and 12,499, and editor Martha Perkins was awarded a second prize for her feature writing in the same circulation category.

The Echo has won almost 40 provincial and national awards since 1978.

The Minden Times was also an award winner in the CCNA competition. *The Times'* coverage of a neo Nazi rally in the area won in the best news story category. *The Times* was also awarded a third place for sports photography in a paper with a circulation of less than 3,999, and earned third place in the community service category.

HERE'S THE PITCH... Two-year-old Christopher Martin turned out for last Wednesday's Minor Softball League registration and was ready for any batter who came his way. Unfortunately, Christopher won't be old enough to register for a few more years. But as his dad says, "He thinks he's playing."

Tent Caterpillar population on the decline, MNR reassures

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

People who see the pest clinging tenaciously to their tree branches may disagree, but the Forest Tent Caterpillar population is about to collapse.

"There are local pockets of fairly high populations but on the whole, they're declining," says James Munn, a Ministry of Natural Resources forest technician.

As well, the large number of friendly flies, a natural parasite, "indicates the soon-to-be-collapsing population."

The areas still suffering from infestation are generally south of Minden. There's also a high population near Salerno Lake, in Snowdon.

Caterpillar infestations occur naturally every 10 years. Populations peak for three or four years before parasites increase their populations enough to kill off the caterpillars.

Besides the nuisance factor, tree health is the main concern when the caterpillars arrive. After the caterpillars eat the first foliage, trees can usually produce a second cover in late June or early July. Trees can do this, if there are no other stresses, for three or four years and still remain viable.

But the MNR is worried about the past two dry summers. "A lot of the trees here grow in shallow soil which is susceptible to drought damage," says Munn. They're hoping there will be more rain this year to help the trees recuperate.

CAS executive quits

by SALLY RITCHIE
Staff Reporter

The business manager of the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society has resigned after the board of directors discovered $220,000 in expenditures which had not appeared on the year end report.

Society President Roy Wood says Brian Wing's resignation is the result of the business manager's incorrect assessment of costs in a single area.

"There wasn't any money spent that didn't have to be spent," Wood says. The discrepancy occurred on the boarding rate line, which states the amount paid to foster parents and group homes. Wood says no one has any control over the money spent in this area: "When people show up, we have to take them in."

At each month end, Wood says Wing changed the accounting figures because he did not believe the stated boarding costs. "He didn't believe the numbers," says Wood of Wing's assessment. Since Wing thought the figure was more than what the socie-

Please turn to page 2

Cellular phones hit Haliburton

by SALLY RITCHIE
Staff Reporter

Expansion of cellular phone coverage up through the Highlands has simultaneously made customers and cellular phone salespeople very happy.

John Stethem, owner of Trucks Plus, says sales of cellular phones have increased substantially. "The last two weeks have been phenomenal," he says. Recent customers have included local business people, contractors and homemakers.

Construction contractors appreciate the flexibility a phone offers, Stethem says. Workers with portable phone units can be dropped off at remote locations and can call when the job is completed. As well, the phones are popular with cottagers who are unable to have regular phones installed.

Stethem says business commuters use the phones to "turn nonproductive time into productive time." As well, better communica-

Please turn to page 2

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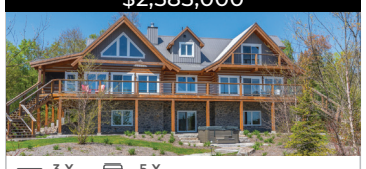

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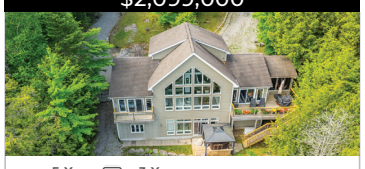

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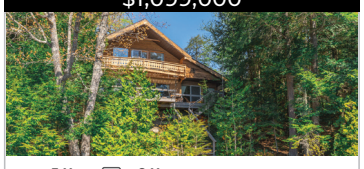

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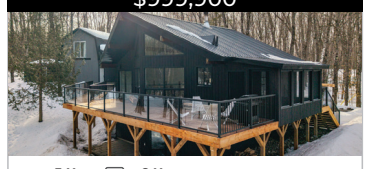

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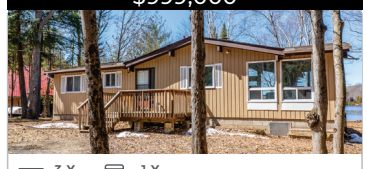

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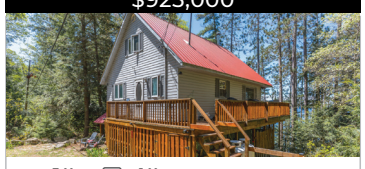

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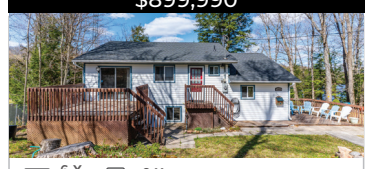

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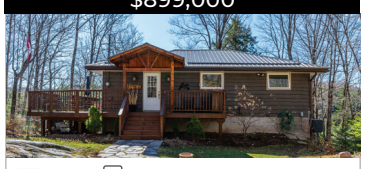
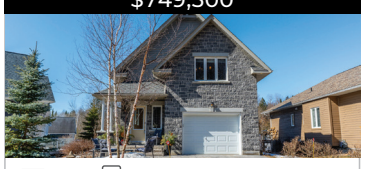
NEGAUNEE LAKE
$899,000



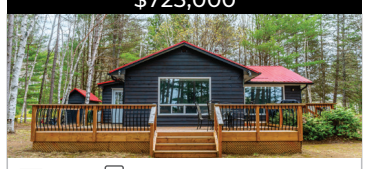
3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12120338

SILVER BEACH
$749,500



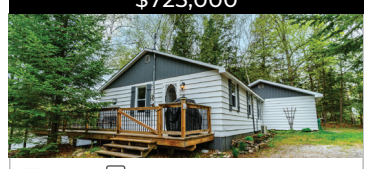
3 X BED | 4 X BATH | MLS# X12071612

WILBERMERE LAKE
$725,000



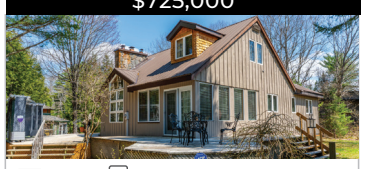
3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12138474

HALIBURTON LAKE
$725,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12159564

KENNISIS RIVER
$725,000



X BED | # X BATH | MLS# X12137708

HEART LAKE
$699,900
NEW LISTING

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12179568

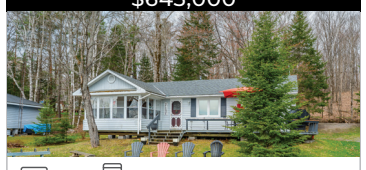
HALIBURTON
$699,000
NEW LISTING

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X 12182080

EAGLE LAKE AREA
$659,900
NEW PRICE

2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12095585

KUSHOG LAKE
$645,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12130572

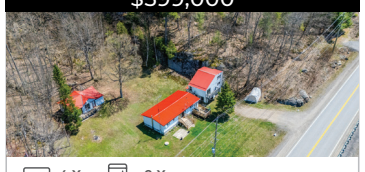
CRANBERRY LAKE
$619,000
NEW PRICE

2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12101365

BOBCAYGEON ROAD
$599,000
NEW LISTING

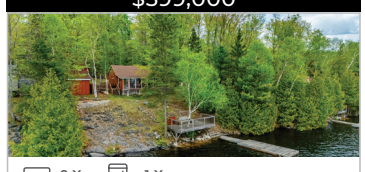
2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12175990

KUSHOG LAKE (RD BETWEEN)
$599,000



4 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12140930

GLAMOR LAKE
$599,000

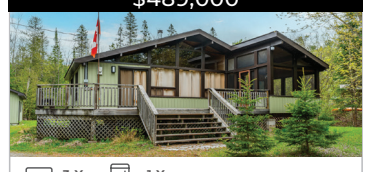


2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12161505

HALIBURTON
$568,000
NEW LISTING

2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12175116

12 MILE LAKE
$489,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12155241

WILBERFORCE
$549,500

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12093164

OAKVIEW COLIVING

2 UNITS AVAILABLE STARTING AT $349,000 UNIT 1 AND 4

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000
FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X11884689

DAVIS LAKE
$660,000

5 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X12162213

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE
$1,275,000

3 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 12121172

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Glamorgan Road
Gooderham Lake
$249,000
6.82 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X11955874
SOLD
$178,000
25 Acres

Lakeview Street
MLS X12034950
$134,900
1.47 Acres
NEW PRICE

Grace River Road
MINER LAKE
MLS X12059917
$135,900
2.56 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$99,000
2.19 Acres
*Vendor Takeback Available

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

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